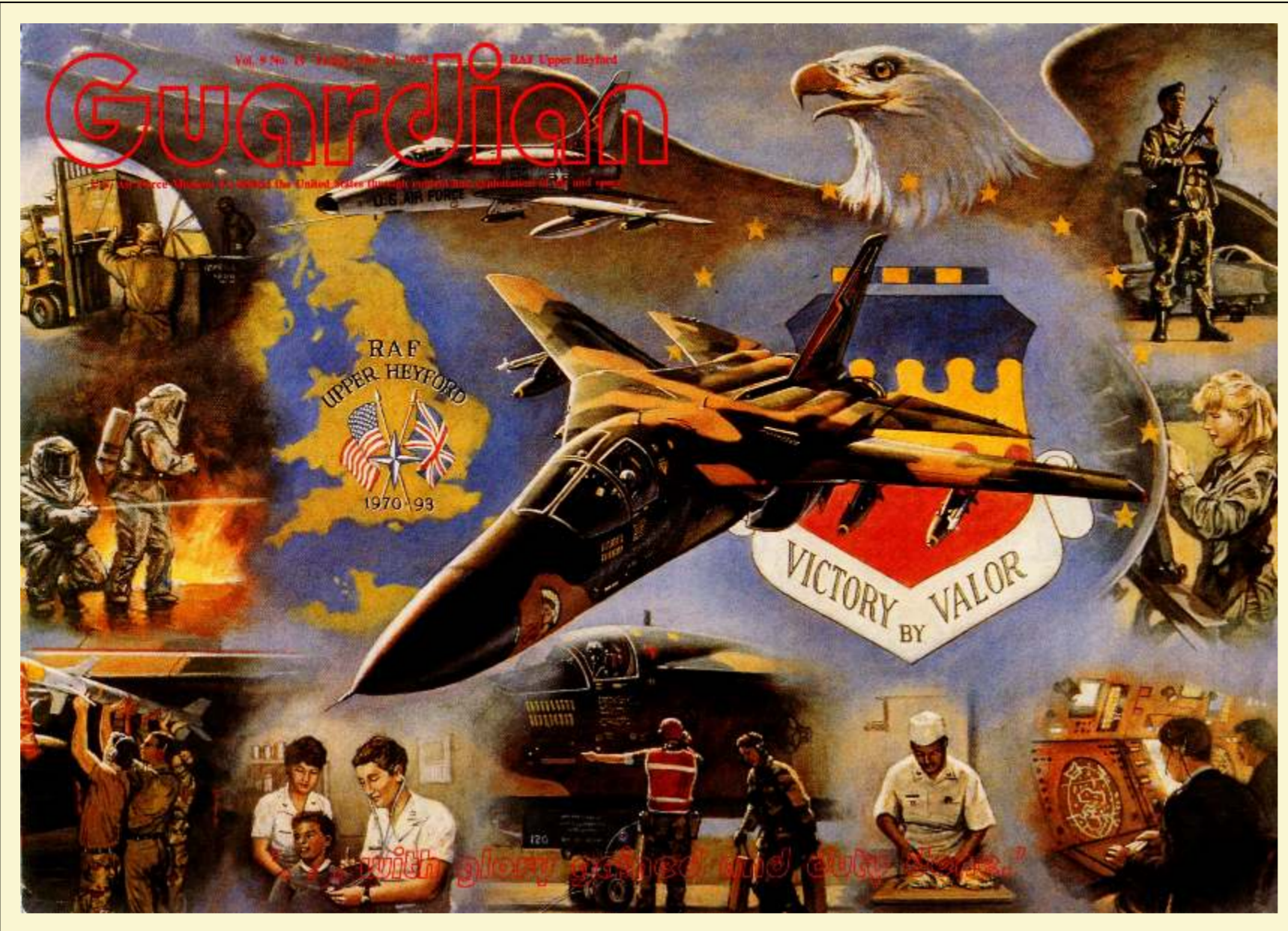


THE USAF UPPER HEYFORD STORY: 7



A cover of the Base magazine

1994 to 1995

April 1994 SAL reports on meeting between MOD and Cherwell Council Development Committee about the future of the Base site. The plan is for a "Technology Village" of housing and businesses. Ruled out are rumoured schemes for a distribution centre, a sports stadium "the new Wembley", a large single manufacturer or a new airfield.

1995 Joint Parishes Group, representing 17 parishes in the environs of the Base reports on liaison meetings the CDC and the MOD about the future of the Base. North Aston suggest it being left as a greenfield site, Steple Aston prefer a large National Sporting Centre for Excellence along the line of the Australian Academy of Sport. All parish councils fear too much intensive housing.

June Joint Parishes Council fear "short list" for future development of the MoD-owned site, prominent on which is a "settlement" of 6-8000. It is not clear if this refers to houses or inhabitants. Parish councils hoped for "village" development of no more than 500 homes. SAAC and Defend Steple Aston suggest using remaining funds, and raising more, to fight over-development of the site and promote a national sporting facility.

October Draft plan for the Base includes proposals for 5,000 houses (12,500 inhabitants). The site has been bought from the MOD by the North Oxford Consortium, a group made up of many powerful building companies. Villagers are urged to write letters to get their views known. Concerns are expressed about infrastructure, transport needs and pollution which will transform the surrounding parishes.

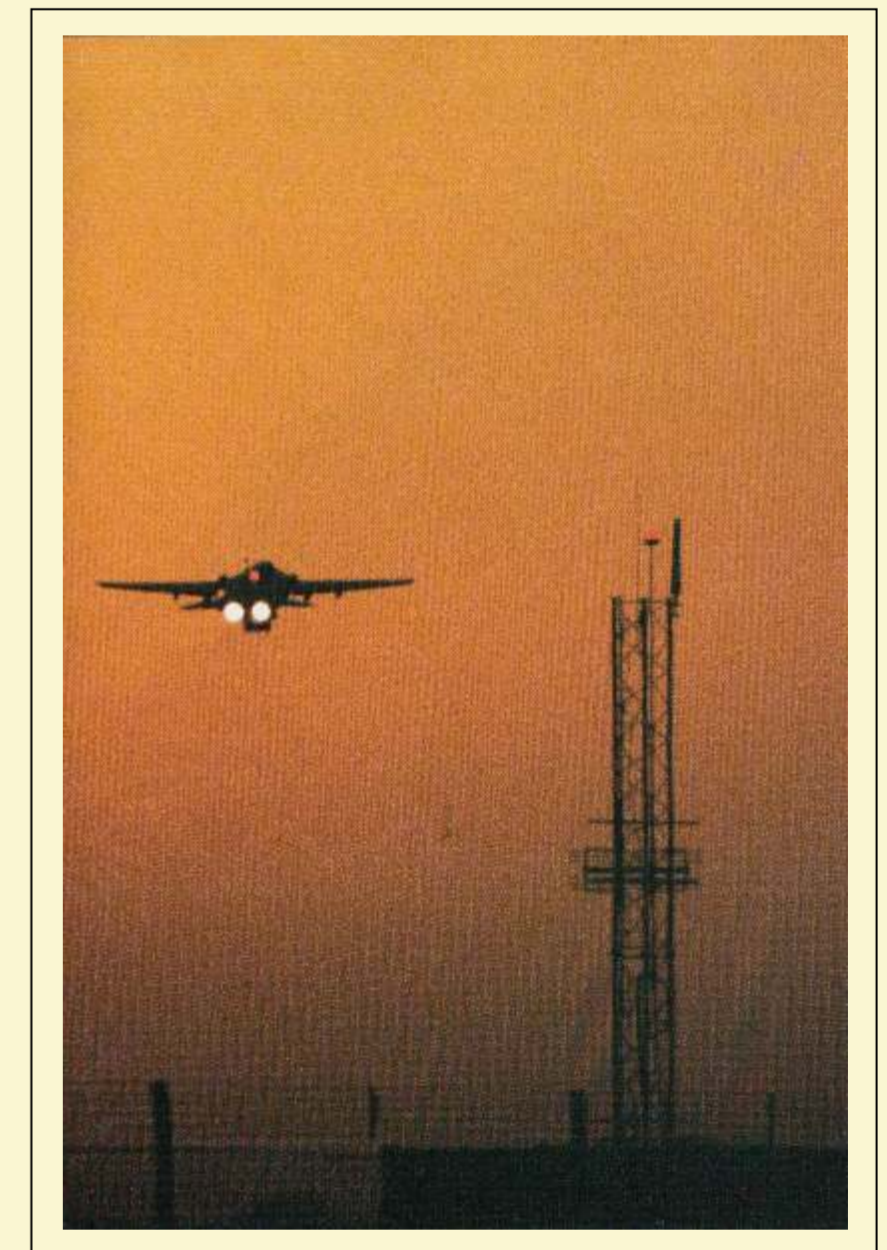
1996

Cherwell councillor Margaret Hodge indicates that the threat of 5000 homes seems to have receded and it is now likely to be 1000 (including the 300 already in existence). There is also considerable support by influential figures for establishing the Centre for Sporting Excellence.

In vain as it turned out. The Centre was eventually built in Sheffield.



Found on the bedroom wall of a house in Steple Aston (above). Toad and Badger, representing British interests, drive the Weasels (dressed in US military uniform) out of Rousham House (Toad Hall) and over Heyford Bridge, an allegory of "Wind in the Willows". Below - a more direct message in the same house.



The F-111s fly home.



A Starlifter transport plane

